PRICE ONE CENT

GERMANY SEES BLUFF IN PEACE STAND OF FOES

Allies Really Anxious to End War, Teutons Assert

ACTION BY NEUTRALS EAGERLY LOOKED FOR

Door Still Open for Diplomatic Parley, Is Opinion in Britain

MAY DEBATE SECRETLY

Central Empires Willing to Compromise, Embassy Officials Here Aver

> By CARL W. ACKERMAN BERLIN, Dec. 20.

Germany regards the speeches of states men in England, France and Russia as a bluff to impress Berlin with the Entente's determination. The Entente Governments cannot do otherwise, in view of their past statements, although they are really anxious

This was the view reflected in all walks of life today following Premier Lloyd George's answer to the Imperial German Chancellor in his speech of yesterday. Berlin is not pessimistic, despite this London statement, added to the previous pronunciamentos from Petrograd and Paris that the Ailies are determined to continue the war until their objects are attained. The general view was that these speeches are not to be taken seriously when weighed against Germany's progress in Rumania.

Not only was this the public view, but officials coincided. One such official declared that no belligerent would ever ask a neutral nation to begin negotiations-nevertheless, steps by a neutral now would not be regarded as unfriendly to the Central Powers. He added, however, that the public state of mind is not such now that American interference would be walcomed.

"If Premier Lloyd George means to post pone peace until the Aillen conquer, the war will be eternal unless the German army succeeds in terminating it at an earlier date," declared Lokal Angelger today, according to Berlin dispatches here. "The phrase reparation' is completely valueless," the nawapaper added.

The Tageblatt observes: "Lloyd George's speech in apparently composed according to prescription 'On one hand . . and . on the other."

"Lloyd George's assertion that whoever gland rejects negotiations." the Vorwaerts

ALLIES MUST FORGET PAST, GERMANS SAY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. "Peace in Europe cannot be reached if the Entente is not willing to forget the past. Germany is now concerned with the future. She is ready to make peace on equitable terms and meet her rivals more than half

German diplomatic circles here today made it plain that this is the position of their Government.

Incidentally, there was a growing belief here that, while the end of the war prob-

Continued on Page Two, Column Two SKEFFINGTON'S WIDOW

Reaches New York and Will Tell Americans of Husband's Murder

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.-Eluding British authorities, Mrs. F. S. Skaffington, widow of the Irish editor who was executed during the Dublin rebellion, gained passage an a steamship and arrived here. She is stopping at a local hotel. She refused to reveal the name of the vessel, but said she had engaged passage under an assumed name and disguised herself before going Skilled Mechanic Buys Piano and

"I was determined to come to the United States and tall the American people about my husband's murder, for that is what it was," she said today. Mrs. Skeffington ansounced that she will go upon a lecture

Hobson to Move to Illinois CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—In order to be near what he considers the center of the most important prohibition fight in America, Cap-lain Richmond Pearson Hobson. Spanish War here and a leading temperance advo-sale, will move to Evanston, Ill. It is an-issuaced today. Captain Hobson has leased a some and will bring his family here from Turado Park, N. Y. after the first of the some and will bring his family hard of the uzedo Park, N. Y., after the first of the

THE WEATHER

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—In-vensing cloudiness, followed by rain or uses tonight and Thursday; warmer tanight, with lowest about 35 degrees; increasing south to east winds.

LENGYH OF DAY Fin mis. . . . 4 37 p.m. Moon souths T 47 s.m. The child's toys lay on the floor healds his BELAWARE RIVER VIDE CHANGES CHESTNUT STREET

THE Walse. Given the water. 5005 a.m. the house this morning. The man had been the belief of the house this morning. The man had been the house this morning that the man districted by the suffering became instead.

SAD DAYS FOR THE DELIVERY BOY



With his basket full of Christmas goods, he is a conspicuous feature of life in the central shopping district these days.

MACKENSEN WINS FORTIFIED LINE

Russians Compelled to Surrender More Positions in the Dobrudja

SERETH FRONT IN PERIL MANY DELAYED IN TUBE

BERLIN, Dec. 20. On the east bank of the Golden Baristritza River (in the lower Carpathians) the Russians have continued their attacks, but without result, the War Office stated today. In Rumania there is nothing new.

BERLIN, Dec. 20. wants only to prolong the war is criminal been only patrol activities and artilimplies a strong self-condemnation if En- lery fire of varying strength, the War cars. The damage was caused about 8:30 has had her calary increased twenty per Office reported today in its official communication.

> BERLIN, Dec. 20.—The Russians and Rumanians in northern Debrudja have abandored a new fortified line before von Mackensen's forces, which are approaching the lower Danube, according to a statement issued by German army headquarters:

> "During the last two days in local engagements," continues the official statement, "more than 1000 Russians and Rumanians were brought in as prisoners and many vehicles, most of them laden with provisions, were captured."

The continued German advance in Rumania, aside from straightening the line and reducing the length of the front by several hundred kilometers, has freed large numbers of troops. The Germans are watching with interest the foreign situation as to ELUDES BRITISH OFFICIALS where Field Marshal von Hindenburg will Russia or the Entante forces on the Macadonian front. But even they themselves are the passengers seemed to take the tis-up

Continued on Page Four, Column Three

Entertains Neighbors-Ill-

Health Causes Suicide

There had been a little party at the home

of John Bradbury, at 1815 East Harold street. The Bradburys had bought a new

plane and invited friends to enjoy the music

The young husband-he was twenty-one

years old-had been rather prosperous and

enjoyed a good job in a dyehouse. The

scarcity of dyes had made his services as

skilled mechanic valuable and he had

The central attraction at the party was

Ruth, the ten-months-old girl. While Mrs.

Bradbury played the piano her husband

and several neighbors were making toys

for the baby. When the guests went home

Bradbury sent his wife to bed with the

"it's been a hard day for you, Louise,"

he said, "you leave me downstairs for a

while to paint this doll." Mrs. Bradbury

retired and about I o'clock this morning

she was awakened by cries of the baby.

She detected the odor of gas and went to the first floor, where she found her hus-

hand dead, with a gas tube, in his mouth.

just received an increase in wages.

with them.

little girl.

SUBWAY MISHAP HALTS THOUSANDS

"L" Stations Crowded in gifts are heavy. Rush Hour by Waiting Patrons

Thousands of persons were late for work and thousands of shoppers were marconed

n the subway on the elevated line cars when the traffic was fied up this morning by lack of power. At all the stations on the inbound side of the elevated passengers were jammed so closely together that hun-

In isolated sectors of the Somme. Hall to Market street forry, was caused Aisne and Champagne fronts and east by the displacement of 100 feet of third of the Meuse (Verdun front) there have rail at City Hall. The rail on the east-

PASSENGERS UNLOADED

Congestion was greatest at the Thirtysecond and Market streets station.

There passengers from the elevated lines were unloaded by thousands and transferred to the Market street surface lines. The growds were so great that there was no time to issue transfers. Street superintendents at this point did the best they ould to take care of all. But West Philadelphia patrons, on learning of the tie-up. used the surface lines from points as far west as Sixtleth street, and when the surfuce cars reached Thirty-second street most of them were already crowded. Hundreds of passengers then fled to Chestnut street only to find that these cars were loaded. small army of passengers walked in to rork from this point.

To make matters worse, the lights went | body's doing it. of while numerous trains were stalled in employ these forces whether against Italy, the subway. All of the cars were jammed. but nothing serious resulted, as most of

Continued on Page Nine. Column One.

GIVES PARTY TO FRIENDS, WIFE SENT TO ANSWER THEN TAKES OWN LIFE MAN'S LARCENY CHARGE

Montgomery County Authorities After Hearing Here

Mrz. Sadie Page, a comely woman, was urned over to the Montgomery County accusation of breaking into her own house and committing larceny. Her husband is Jacob Page, of Huntingdon Valley.

Assistant District Attorney Frank Henninger, of Norristown, who was at the hearing, which was before Magistrate Beaton, said a wife could not be guilty of either charge when the complainant was the husband.

Detective Farrel arrested Mrs. Page Monday night at 133 Bouth Sixtleth atrest. where she was living. The arest was made un a warrant aworn out by her husband befors Justice Eckels at Bethayres. According to the detective, Mr. Page ac-

used Mrs. Page of breaking into their home at Huntingdon Valley and stealing a diamond ring and some other articles two weeks ago, which was six weeks after she left him. Mrs. Page said the diamond ring was hers

and the other articles were her clothing. She was very much encoyed at having to leave Philadelphia and wanted to know how long it would take to clear things up. When told a day would do, she nesmed

thre mittedge. Size has been quality to obtain ball,

\$49,425,000 CITY CHRISTMAS BILL

Flood of Gold Released Where "Spug" Once Cast Baleful Gloom

MONEY IS LEAST FACTOR

What Philadelphia Spends for Christmas Gifts

Department stores Specialty shops. Haberdashery and men's furnishings Jewelry	2,500,000 2,000,000 3,000,000
Books Candy	1,250,000
Flowers Furs Tobacco	560,000
Hata	600,000
Shoes Leather goods	500,000 100,000
Wines and liquors Pianos	3,000,000 1,000,000 3,000,000
Talking machines	1,096,000 25,000
Totals	\$49,425,000
By MTJSS	

This is a story about Money-Money with

big M. More money than the average freamer of pipe dreams ever sees.

It is almost fifty million dollars, the noney that Philadelphians are spending to lemonstrate their happiness that there is peace on this side of the globe and their feeling of good will toward men.

When the last shop door is closed on Satarday night and the tired cash registers are put to rest Philadelphia, according to careful calculations, will have spent \$49,-\$25,000. Statisticians put the figure at that but it is not at all improbable that something in excess of that sum will have been spent. There is no way of computing the noney gifts. But the continued business after Christmas always shows that money

Mammon is running riot. Wealth seems the lot of every one. Jewelers report that never before have so many precious stones been bought by the average person.

"A man who once bought his wife a 1present came in and ordered a \$300 lamp the other day," one jeweler said, quoting the meldent as typical of the high plans to which spending had ascended, OPULENCE ABROAD If the prosperity of the nation is to be

gauged by the prodigality with which it is "opening up" for this Christmas the country reached a highwater mark not touched be-The block, which mated for nearly two the dark side of life, here had their usual ours on the east end of the tube, from City | pre-Christmas | pessioner | Christmas | seems there will be dinners and gifts for all. Some poverty, they say, still exists, but just as soon as they begin talking about it in concrete instances it disappears, because some plutocratic stenographer or clerk who

> ent produces a greenback and opulently declares: "Buy them a turkey and dolls with that." The high cost of living has been knocked nto a cocked hat by the high cost of spending. The manager of a department store

> said flatly: "Without a doubt when the Christmas fig. ares are tabulated a fifty per cent increase wer last year's business will be shown."

> The Spug, that shortlived being who prang into existence from force of necesty, the creature whose name means that he is or was a member of the Society for the Prevention of Uncless Cliving is now almost extinct. "Give, give give." is the cry, "give uneful gifts and when you have exhausted your imagination on them, give useless ones. Give angora cuts and give automobiles, give ships and shoes and scaling wax. and pearls and Russian sables."

Fur dealers report that business in pelts. ma never been more flourishing. "And the joy of it all is," one said. "our

biggest business is done after Chrisimas. Cantinued on Page Seven, Column Two

WOMAN NOT GUILTY

OF MURDERING SUITOR Pretty Woman Turned Over to Mrs. Maressa Said She Was

Goaded Into Committing Crime

Mrs. Josephine Maressa was founded not guilty of the murder of Sebastino authorities today to answer her husband's Caprino this afternoon by a jury in the Camden Court. The jury deliberated

Josephine Maressa went on trial today for her life. Still, it wasn't so much her life as that of her three-month-old baby and three other small children, for if it hadn't been for them, she said, she would never have shot and killed Schastine Ca-

never have shot and killed Sebastine Caprino.

She admitted the killing; she admitted having run away from her husband with Caprino, but she said, very slowly, that she had been forced to do it.

Black under the blue skies of Italy, Josephine and Caprino had known each other. Theirs was no romance, just an acquaint-anceship. But after she had come to this cointry, he had followed and found her in Philadelphia living happily with her busband at 131 Lesds street Caprino came as a boarder, grew sick and was nursed through the liftness through har close attention. He mistook kindness for love and grew persistent in his affectious.

Through visions of torture he impressed her on a 15th to Trenton has summer. She excaped and went back home. On the day before her haby was born in September, he appeared at her mother's house at Fisher's Point and asked that she run away with him. On a pretext of getting ciothas she went into the house for a revolver, placed it under the clothes of one of the children and free.

QUICK NEWS

BETHLEHEM STEEL FALLS \$72 A SHARE NEW YORK, Dec. 20 .- In the late trading on the New York Stock Exchange today Bethlehem Steel sold at \$500 a share, a decline of \$72 as compared with the close yesterday. The market was weak.

SENATE FILIBUSTER BLOCKS CAPITAL "DRY" BHL WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- A determined fillibuster conducted by "wet" Senators blocked the way to vote on the Sheppard District of Columbia prohibition bill in the Senate this afternoon and threatened to sidetrack the measure until after the holidays.

IOWA MAYOR SEIZES COAL TO RELIEVE FAMINE DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 20 .- On the ground of public necessity the the face of a coal famine, Mayor John MacVicar today seized a carload of coal belouging to the Bloomfield Coal Company. The company will be paid the market price. The coal will be delivered by city teams at cost to homes without fuel.

DU PONT'S BOOST SALARY BONUS TO 30 PER CENT

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 20. The du Pont Powder Company today announced that the twenty per cent salary bonus which it has been paying for the last year to salaried employes will be increased January 1 to thirty per cent. It was recently announced that the twenty per cent bonus being paid to payroll employes in the plants would be made a part of the regular pay for 1917.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 .- J. B. Bache & Co. are distributing bonuses to their emsloyer amounting to twenty per cent of their annual salary, compared with fifteen per cent distributed June 1. R. M. Grant & Co. are distributing ten per cent en rearly salaries to all employes in their New York, Boston and Chicago offices

MERGER OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA LINES APPROVED

HARRISBURG, Dec. 20.—The merger of the Pennsylvania lines west of Pittsourgh under the title of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Company was approved at noon today by the Public Service Commission. The objections previously filed were withdrawn.

LOCAL RESERVE BANK PAYS FIRST DIVIDEND

An initial dividend of six per cent has been declared by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, payable December 30. The dividend declared covers the period from November 2, 1214, to June 30, 1215, as for the first eight months of operation the stock is entitled to cumulative dividends up to six per cent per annum.

U-BOAT SINKS BRITISH SHIP FROM SOUTH AMERICA

LONDON, Dec. 20. The British steamship Filmston has been sunk by a subnarine, says a dispatch received here today. Her captain and first engineer were taken prisoners. The crew was rescued. The vessel, of 3492 net tons, sailed from Buenos Aires November 18 for London

P. R. R. SUBSIDIARIES PAY LARGER DIVIDENDS

Two subsidiary companies of the Pennsylvania Rajlroad declared larger dividends eday. The Pittsburgh, Cincianati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad declared a lividend of three per cent on the preferred stock and five per cent on the common, both payable January 15, 1917, to stock of record December 30, 1916. Six months ago two per cent was declared on the preferred, the present dividend making five per cent on this class of stock for the year. The Vandalia Railroad declared a dividend of four per cent, payable January 15 to stock of record December 20. Two per cont was paid by the company last February. In December, 1912 and 1913, four per cent dividends were paid, but in December, 1914, no dividend was paid.

\$210,000 APPROPRIATED TO PHILADELPHIA MINT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.-Facing a complete shutdown of the Philadelphia Mint on January 10 because the appropriation for its operation had been exhausted the House today passed the urgent deficiency appropriation bill, reported yesterday, which gives an appropriation of \$210,000 to be used during the remainder of the fiscal year. It is provided that \$110,000 shall be spent as wages to workmen and \$100,000 for contingent expenses.

BRITAIN TO RAISE RAILROAD FARES 50 PER CENT

LONDON, Dec. 20,-Increase of all rallway fares in Great Britain fifty per ent, beginning January 1, was announced by the Board of Trade in the House of Commons this afternoon.

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA HIGH MAY GET ATHLETIC FIELD

South Philadelphia High may have an athletic field next season. At the presentation of the Ellia A. Gimbel trophy to the South Philadelphia High oleven, cholastic champions, this morning the donor of the cup, Ellis A. Gimbel, came out strongly in favor of an athletic field for the winners, and said he would support ance, appressed his willingness to aid in building an athletic field for South Phila-delphia High. any movement in that direction. Congressman William S. Vare, who was in attend-

PRICE OF RAILS ADVANCED \$4 A TON

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 20.-The Carnegie Steel Company today advanced the price of light rails \$4 a ten to \$50 a ten for sections weighing twenty-five to forty-five pounds. This is an increase of \$7 a ton in the last thirty days. A premium offered for spot delivery.

BRUMBAUGH HAS NOT ASKED SMITH TO RESIGN

HARRISHURG, Dec. 20.-Governor Brumbaugh denied today that he had repuested the resignation of State Banking Commissioner Smith. Smith was closefed with the Governor at the Executive Department for some time. When he left the Governor was asked if the Commissioner had resigned. "No, he has not," was the reply. "Flave you asked for his resignation?" the Governor was asked. "Certainly

ANOTHER CHILD STRICKEN BY INFANT PLAGUE

Another case of infantile paralysis has been reported to health authorities. Dorothy Brewer, twenty-one months old, of 304 North Eighteenth street, is the latest victim. The child was removed to the Municipal Hospital. The house has Grande last night

\$12,000,000 CITY BONDS OPEN TO PUBLIC JANUARY 8

Twelve million dollars in city band, will be offered to the public on January 8, was announced today, following a meeting of Mayor Smith, City Solicitor Connelly and Controller Walton. The money is needed by the city to meet payments on the Mexican side of the river for several contracts for Parkway property. Another \$17,500,000 issue will be sold in July, days. according to the present program.

TWO BATTLESHIPS HERE FOR OVERHAULING

Bluejackets on the United States battleships Michigan and Connecticut will spend their Christmas at League Island. The two battleships arrived today from Hampton Roads. Va., and will be thoroughly overhauled for target practice later in the West Indies.

HALF OF STATE'S IMPORTED QUAIL FREEZE

HARRISBURG, Dec. 20.-State game officials are chagrined at having been compelled to fight cold weather and snow just after landing 6000 Mexican quali in Pennsylvania. Three thousand of the little birds already have succumbed, and Dr. Joseph Kalbfus, secretary of the State Game Commission, has small hopes for the remaining haif of the shipment.

STATE WILL GIVE AWAY 2,000,000 TREES

HARRISBURG, Dec. 20. Pennsylvania will give away 2,000,000 young trein is winter in accordance with its plan for reforestation of lands in the State Of the trees, 1.250,000 are white pine and the rest are sugar maple, largh and

TRANSIT LEASE DETAILS TO BE KNOWN TODAY

Complete Plan Submitted to Conferees for Formal Acceptance

FOR MERGER WITH CITY

P. R. T. Company Agrees to Squeeze All "Water" Out of Stock

A complete draft of the proposed agrees nent between the city and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company for the equipment and operation of the entire system of citybuilt high-speed subway and elevated lines. will be made public this afternoon following a conference in the office of Mayor

Smith. The agreement has been worked out largely by the Philadelphia Rapid Trausit Company itself, but representatives of the In regard to various points. The agreement or lease in its present form has already been submitted to Mayor Smith and to former Transit Director A. Merritt Taylor, and it is understood to have the tacit approval of both.

DETAILS OF PLAN

Every precaution has been taken to guilfd he details of the agreement and up to the time of the meeting little was known of the definite terms which the transit company will ask. It was learned, however, that the company had signified its willingness to squeeze the "water" out of both P. R. T. and Union Traction stock and to put the former on a purely investment basis with a present market value of about 47.

It is also known that the lease will provide for the operation by the company of the entire system as a unit, including the Darby elevated and the Northwest subwayclevated, work on which is to be begun

promptly: The Rapid Transit trust certificates soared to a new high mark shortly before o'clock this afternoon, when a block of 1000 shares sold for 3312, the highest price reached since 1909 and 11/2 points above the

closing price yesterday. The market opened today at 33. The price rose to 33% and subsequently dropped a fraction, remaining below 33 until noon, when it rose gradually until \$15 was reached. The total sales today up to 2 o'clock reached only 25,000, which, although much larger than normal, was considerably below the high mark in sales yesterday and Monday. The sales for the last three days, or since the tip of the agreement first went out, have passed the 100,000 mark or more than one-sixth of the total out-

standing shares of the company. Later the stock dropped to 3114, but soon gained strength, and was at 33 just before he market closed.

DIRECTORS IN SESSION

The big developments today began with a meeting of the executive committee of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company early this afternoon. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the board of directors of the company, which began at 3 o'clock, Mayor Smith, Colonel Sheldon Potter and William Hancock, who are the city's transit representatives, were present at the latter meeting. The proposed agreement between the city and company was the

sole business. Immediately after this meeting E. T. Stotesbury, chairman of the company's executive committee, and Thomas El Mitten. president, will proceed to the office of Mayor. Smith, where the formal conference will be held. Representing the city will be the Mayor, Mr. Hancock, Colonel Potter, City Solicitor Connelly, Chairman Gaffney, of

Continued on Page Two, Column Three

U. S. GUARDSMEN FIRED ON FROM MEXICAN SIDE

Oklahoma Infantry Attacked, but None Hurt-Returns Volley

SAN BENITO, Tex., Dec. 20 .- Company B, First Oklahoma Infantry, on guard at the Santa Maria pumping station, was fired upon by Mexicans from across the Ric

Two of the fifty shots passed through one of the shelter tents, but no one was injured 'The American soldiers returned the fire, but owing to the darkmens could not tell whether many of the shots took effect. An armed guard has been patrolling the

Colonel Roy V. Hoffman, of the First Oklahoma, began an immediate invertiga-

Senate Agrees to Christmas Recess WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 -- The Bellate this afternoon adopted the House resolution fo recess Friday until January 3.

DOWN WITH FAMILY PORTRAITS

says Miss Georgianna King, profeasor of modern art at Bryn Mawr, in an interview with M'Liss on the WOMAN'S PAGE of TODAY'S

Evening Ledger